



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/587,698	07/27/2006	Manfred Meinherz	2004P00850	3531
24131 7590 05/12/2008 LERNER GREENBERG STEMER LLP P O BOX 2480 HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480				
EXAMINER				
FISHMAN, MARINA				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2832				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/12/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/587,698

Applicant(s)

MEINHERZ, MANFRED

Examiner

Marina Fishman

Art Unit

2832

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-21 and 23 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-21 and 23 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

General status

1. This is a First Action on the Merits. Claims 12 – 21 and 23 are pending in the case and are being examined.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 16, 19, 20, 21, and 23 are objected to because of the following informalities: In each of the claims 19, 20, 21 and 23 "(first) phase conductor" should be changed to –first phase conductor.

Claim 16, "said electrode" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

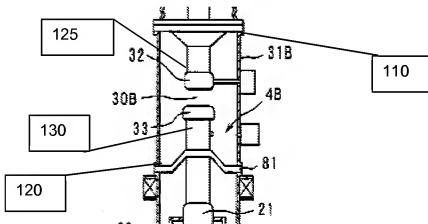
4. Claims 12 - 21 and 23, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuta et al. [US 6,538,224] Rokunohe et al. [US 6,680,453].

Regarding Claim 12, Furuta et al. discloses a compressed-gas-insulated switch-disconnector module comprising:

- an electrically conductive housing [31b, Figure 12] having first and second flanges [100, 110];
- switching contacts [32, 33];

Art Unit: 2832

- a main axis [not numbered];
- first and second electrical phase conductors [125, 130] extended along the main axis for connection at an isolating gap [at 30B];
- the first phase conductor passing through the first flange [110]; the second phase conductor passing through the second flange [120];



Furuta discloses claimed invention except for a tubular electrode connected to the housing, concentrically surrounding the first phase conductor and radially disposed inside the first flange and projecting beyond the first flange. Rokunohe et al., in Figure 16, discloses a disconnector [2] with a top flange and a tubular electrode [not numbered] connected to the housing, concentrically surrounding the first phase conductor and radially disposed inside the first flange and projecting beyond the first flange. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a tubular electrode connected to the housing, concentrically surrounding the first phase conductor and radially disposed inside the first flange and projecting beyond the first flange,

in Furuta as suggested by Rokunohe, in order to provide a shield around the first conductor.

Regarding Claims 13 and 14, Furuta discloses the first and second flanges to be coaxial. Furuta also discloses current transformer below the second flange [120]. The second does have an outside which can be a holding device for the transformer. It would have been obvious to reposition the transformer above the second flange level, in order to measure the current close to the gap.

Regarding Claim 15, Furuta does disclose first and second flanges, but does not specify the relative circumferences of the flanges. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide first flange with larger circumference, than the second flange, in order to better support the insulator. Regarding Claim 16, the modified disconnector of Furuta will have the tubular electrode, supported by the housing. Regarding Claim 17, the limitation 'cast onto the housing' is a method step limitation in an article claim, and the disclosed electrode is capable of being cast onto the housing.

Regarding Claim 19, Furuta discloses a grounding switch [4b] interior of the housing for grounding the phase conductor; an insulating casing [12B]; a portion of the housing above the second flange is taken as a stub and the modified device of Furuta will have a toroidal transformer disposed around the stub, also the stub area an the housing will have a common gas area. Regarding claims 20 and 21, Furuta et al. disclose the instant claimed invention including support [62, Figure 14]; it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a pillar support, as suggested by embodiment of Figure 14, in

Figure 12, to add rigidity to the first contact and conductor. Regarding Claim 23, the device of Furuta as modified by Rokunohe et al. will have a (tubular) electrode, the insulating casing and the housing defines a connecting area therebetween and the (tubular) electrode extends coaxially relative to the first phase conductor and shields the connecting area.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marina Fishman whose telephone number is (571)272-1991. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-5 M-T.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

Art Unit: 2832

Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elvin G Enad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2832

/Marina Fishman/
Examiner, Art Unit 2832
May 6, 2008